GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

APWALT Act 2002 – Implementation of the provisions of Andhra Pradesh Water, Land and Trees Act – Guidelines for according permission to dig new wells in all areas except Notified over exploited areas – Amendments to certain guidelines – Orders – Issued.

PANCHAYAT RAJ & RURAL DEVELOPMENT (RD.II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.MS.No. 16 Dated: 23-03-2021.

Read the following:-

1. G.O.Ms.No.227 of Panchayat Raj & Rural Development (RD.III) Dept, dated:08.04.2013.
2. From the Commissioner, PR&RD Note No.924/CRD/YSR-JK/2020 Dt.19.03.2021.

<<0>>

ORDER :

Government vide G.O 1st read above issued a notification approving the guidelines issued by the Ground Water Department to implement the AP-WALT Act in over exploited areas and survey to be conducted for permission to dig new wells. As per these guidelines drilling depth is restricted up to 120 meters in hard rock areas and minimum spacing between the wells is ranging from 200 meters to 300 meters and 300 meters to 500 meters in command and non-command areas in the State respectively.

2. The Commissioner, PR&RD vide reference 2nd read above has informed that based the several representations received from the farmers, a letter has been addressed to the Director, Ground Water& Water Audit Department to examine the possibilities to modify the restrictions on the depth of drilling and spacing norms between the wells by constituting a Technical Committee. Based on the suggestions made by the Director, Ground Water Department, a Technical Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Commissioner, PR&RD.

3. The Commissioner, PR&RD has further informed that the Technical Committee mentioned above through its multiple meetings and a 2 day workshop, have discussed on various aspects for examining the possibilities to modify the restrictions on depth of drilling and spacing norms between the wells and submitted a final report with recommendations to modifying the limitations of depth of bore-wells & spacing norms between the wells.

4. Based on the report of the Technical Committee, the Commissioner, PR&RD has proposed certain modifications to the guidelines issued in the reference 1st read above. Government after examination of these modifications hereby made the following amendment to the guidelines issued in the reference 1st read above for effective implementation of Andhra Pradesh Water Trees Land Act 2002 in the State:

i) The Para (9) of Guidelines issued in the G.O 1st read above is amended and shall be read as follows:-

The depth recommended for drilling shall be as per site specific requirement, based on hydro geological and geophysical data and shall be as per the table below:

S. No	Agro-Climatic and Ground Water Zone (Districts)	Depth of drilling recommended (m)			Remarks
		Hard Rock Areas	Sedimentary Areas	Alluvial Areas	
1	Southern Zone - 1 (Nellore, Chittoor, Kadapa districts)	200	No limitation	No limitation	1. Based on the local conditions and the filed hydro geological and geophysical survey results, the recommendations of groundwater department officers or any registered Geologist/Geophysicist with APSGW&WAD may be adopted to drill beyond 200 m. 2. In case of coastal aquifer systems, precautions should be taken to avoid sea water incursion
2	Low rainfall Zone – 2 (Kurnool, Anantapuram districts)	200	No limitation	No limitation	
3	Central Zone – 3 (Guntur, Prakasam districts)	200	No limitation	No limitation	
4	Godavari Zone – 4 (East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna districts)	150	No limitation	No limitation	
5	North Coastal Zone – 5 (Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam districts)	150	No limitation	No limitation	

ii) The Para (10) of Guidelines issued in the G.O 1st read above is amended and shall be read as follows:-

The sites recommended for new wells in each district shall have adequate distance from the existing wells as per norms for respective districts given in the annexure-II (amended) of this GO.

iii) The Annexure-II of G.O 1st read above is amended by replacing with the following :-

a) **The proposed spacing norms between the wells in command areas is as mentioned below, however while recommending any well for any other purpose in the vicinity of a rural water supply well the norm of maintaining 250 m should be followed without any compromise.**

Agro-Climatic and Ground Water Zone (Districts)	Ayacut (Command) Area			
	Dug Well (m)	Filter Point Well (m)	Bore Well / Tube Well (m)	
			<= 10M^3/hr	10-20 M^3/hr
Southern Zone - 1 (Nellore, Chittoor, Kadapa districts)	40	75	75	100
Low rainfall Zone – 2 (Kurnool, Anantapuram districts)	40	75	75	100

Central Zone – 3 (Guntur, Prakasam districts)	**50**	**100**	**100**	**150**
Godavari Zone – 4 (East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna districts)	**30**	**50**	**50**	**75**
North Coastal Zone – 5 (Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam districts)	**30**	**75**	**75**	**100**

b) **The proposed spacing norms between wells in non-command areas is as mentioned below, however while recommending any well for any other purpose in the vicinity of a rural water supply well the norm of maintaining 250 m should be followed without any compromise.**

Agro-Climatic and Ground Water Zone (Districts)	**Non-Ayacut (Non-Command) Area**			
	Dug Well (m)	**Filter Point Well (m)**	**Bore Well / Tube Well (m)**	
			<= 10M^3/hr	**10-20 M^3/hr**
Southern Zone - 1 (Nellore, Chittoor, Kadapa districts)	**50**	**100**	**100**	**150**
Low rainfall Zone – 2 (Kurnool, Anantapuram districts)	**75**	**150**	**150**	**200**
Central Zone – 3 (Guntur, Prakasam districts)	**50**	**100**	**100**	**150**
Godavari Zone – 4 (East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna districts)	**50**	**100**	**100**	**150**
North Coastal Zone – 5 (Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam districts)	**50**	**100**	**100**	**150**

c) In respect of domestic drinking water needs for individual houses no well spacing is recommended. In case of rural water supply the well spacings need to be maintained at 250 m as in vogue. **Irrespective of the spacing norms mentioned above for command (Ayacut) and non-command (Non-Ayacut) areas, while recommending any well for any other purpose in the vicinity of a rural water supply well the norm of maintaining 250 m should be followed without any compromise in all the cases.**

5. These modified guidelines shall come into force from the date of issue of this order.

6. All the other guidelines mentioned in the G.O 1st read above shall remain unchanged.

7. The Commissioner, Panchayat Raj and Rural Development shall take necessary action accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

GOPAL KRISHNA DWIVEDI
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To:

The Commissioner, Panchayat Raj & Rural Development, AP, Tadepalli, Guntur.
All the District Collectors and District Magistrates in the State.
The Director, Ground Water & Water Audit Department, AP, Vijayawada.
All the Project Directors, DWMAs and Addl. Dist. Programme Coordinators of MGNREGS in the State.
All the Project Officers, ITDA and Additional District Programme Coordinators in the State.

Copy to:

The OSD to Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister.
The OSD to Hon'ble Minister (PR&RD, Mines & Geology).
The PS to Principal Secretary to Government, PR&RD.
SF/SC

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER